

Conservatory Singers

MU 045/304



Central Methodist University
Spring 2020 0 or 1 credit
MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m. Classic Choir Room–Fayette
campus
Class Rotation: Offered every semester

Instructor: Dr. Laura Wiebe
Collaborative Pianist: Mrs. Janet O'Neill
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Office Hours: M-F, 12-1 pm

What is Conservatory Singers?

Conservatory Singers is a dynamic community of singers who create beautiful and inspiring music. As representatives of the university through public concerts and collaborative music projects in mid-Missouri, its members seek to embody CMU's character goals, in particular to "seek an understanding of ideas, issues, and events within and beyond their immediate community and appreciate the gifts of diversity."

Mission

Central Methodist University prepares students to make a difference in the world by emphasizing academic and professional excellence, ethical leadership, and social responsibility.

Spring Semester 2020 Schedule

Mark these required dates in your calendar! Be sure to request to have these days/times off of work. Also, please share these dates with your family and friends so they can plan ahead.*

1. Sunday, March 1 CONCERT

4 p.m. @ Linn Memorial United Methodist (Call time TBA)

2. Required REHEARSAL with Missouri Symphony Conservatory Chamber Players

Monday, April 13, 6:15-7:40 pm at Broadway Christian Church in Columbia

3. Sunday, April 19 REHEARSAL AND CONCERT

3 p.m. Dress Rehearsal (this just means "final", not concert dress) / 7:00 p.m. concert

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Students will learn and implement the **fundamentals of healthy vocal technique**.
2. Students will understand basic **musical terminology** and its application in the rehearsal setting.
3. Students will improve their ability to sing with **different dynamic levels, types of articulation, and kinds of musical and dramatic expression**.
4. Students will acquire and improve their choral **sightreading skills**.
5. Students will **analyze poetic texts** and investigate how text relates to musical style and compositional approach.
6. Students will **act as ambassadors for the university** and conservatory through their decorum and performance.

Required Materials

1. A set of printed choral music, issued at the beginning of the semester. This music belongs to the CMU choral library. You will be charged the replacement cost of any lost or damaged music. Mark your music in pencil only! It is fine to hole-punch this music.
2. A black three-ring binder and a pencil.
3. Formal concert attire (dresses + pearls for women, and tuxedos for men):

DRESSES

You will need to purchase the **Sarina Ladies** dress from **StageAccents.com** and is \$59.00 + tax/shipping, plus your own closed-toe black dress shoes (of a reasonable heel height) and pearls. **Special note:** based on our experience, these dresses run small and it's best to order one size larger than what your measurements indicate. We have a few sizes in the office for you to try on if you wish.

TUXEDOS

You may wear your own tuxedo if you have one, otherwise we suggest that you order the [Super Tuxedo Package](#) from **TuxedoWholesaler.com** for \$99.50 + tax/shipping. If you order the Super Tuxedo Package, select the following: Poly Notch, Black Vest/Bow Tie/Wing Collar. You will also need to supply your own long black socks and black dress shoes.

Rehearsal Expectations

- ❖ Arrive on time to class.
- ❖ Bring your music and a pencil.
- ❖ Cultivate a positive attitude and an open mind. Leave your stress behind for the hour!
- ❖ Do your very best for the entire 50-minute rehearsal.
- ❖ Challenge yourself to look up and out of your music.
- ❖ Stand and sit with excellent alignment.
- ❖ Mark your music during class.
- ❖ Listen to others in your section as you sing. Strive for creating balance with your neighbors, section, and choir.
- ❖ Keep talking to an absolute minimum.
- ❖ Stay off of your phone.
- ❖ Communicate with me via email if you need to miss class for any reason.

ATTENDANCE!

The whole point of this class and this ensemble is to make music

together.

If you “skip” a rehearsal—which I trust that you will not!—there is literally no way for you to “make up” what you missed. I repeat:

there is no way to make up a missed rehearsal!

This is the cool thing about music:

it’s an in-the-moment, can’t-be-recreated experience, with all kinds of (hopefully) interesting, spontaneous, surprising, fun moments. It’s also a **team sport**. Your teammates are relying on you, and so am I.

...Therefore...

Here is the Conservatory Singers attendance policy:

Attendance at *all* scheduled rehearsals and concerts is required. How absences affect your status in the ensemble and your grade:

1. More than three absences will result in **probationary status** in the ensemble. If you are absent more than three times for any reason, you will have to come to my office for a **singing test**, which you must pass satisfactorily in order to remain in the ensemble.
2. Your grade will be deducted **2.5% for each absence up to three absences**. After that, each absence deducts your grade by 10%. More than 4 absences may result in removal from the ensemble; this will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
3. University-sponsored events (games, trips, etc.) in which you are a required or official participant are considered excused, but you must email me in advance to let me know.

But wait, you say...I’m a human! What if I get sick and I can’t sing?

See the next page...

If you are sick, here's what I recommend:

- ❖ **If you think you are contagious**, by all means, stay home and get well. The fact that your grade is deducted only 2.5% for the first three absences means that you have a little bit of wiggle room for possible sickness.
- ❖ **If you are well enough to come to class**—regardless of whether or not you can sing— come to class and you will fill out a rehearsal worksheet that will provide valuable feedback to the choir (I will scan it and send it out to everyone after rehearsal).
- ❖ **If you are on the fence about what you should do, consider these facts about singing:**

Singing is scientifically proven to:

- Improve **mental health**
- Calm the **heart**
 - *Researchers discovered that choir singers' hearts and pulses synchronize. Reducing the variability of your heart rate has a positive impact on health.*
- Boost **endorphin and oxytocin** levels
- Significantly **lower the stress hormone cortisol**
- Boost the **immune system**
- Improve **lung function**
- Increase **pain thresholds** and reduce the need for pain medication

Midterm and final grades will be assigned based on attendance and participation in rehearsals and performances. Your grade will be deducted 2.5% for each absence up to three absences. After that, each absence deducts your grade by 10%. More than 4 absences may result in removal from the ensemble; this will be handled on a case-by-case basis. A missed performance will result in a grade reduction of 40%.

The CMU Attendance policy is online in the CLAS catalog at

<http://www.centralmethodist.edu/catalogs/clas/policies/academic-regulations.php#class>

CMU Policies and Learning Outcomes

Grading Scale

Letter Grades: 90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 59 or lower F

DESE Subject Specific Competencies addressed in this course: 1.A.1, 1.A.2, 1.A.3, 1.A.4, 1.A.5; 1.B.8, 1.B.9, 1.B.10, 1.B.11, 1.B.12; 1.C.13, 1.C.14; 1.D.15, 1.D.17, 1.D.18; 1.E.20, 1.E.21, 1.E.22, 1.E.23; 1.F.24, 1.F.25; 1.G.26, 1.G.27, 1.G.28, 1.G.29, 1.G.30, 1.G.31, 1.G.32; 1.H.35, 1.H.36, 1.H.38, 1.H.39, 1.H.40, 1.H.3.1

Health and Safety for Musicians

Musicians face a number of health and safety issues, particularly in applied lessons and ensembles. Hearing concerns, vocal health, and muscle injuries are a concern for faculty and students. Awareness and education are key to preventing harmful habits or injuries. In addition to the information shared with you in lessons and rehearsals, there is material available to you regarding best practices for maintaining hearing, vocal, and muscular health.

Helpful information is posted on the Fine Arts section of the CMU

webpage: <http://www.centralmethodist.edu/finearts/current.php>.

Academic Integrity and Academic Conduct

Students are expected to follow the CMU Academic Conduct Policy as outlined in the current CLAS Online Student Handbook, located at http://www.centralmethodist.edu/cges/docs/Online_Student_Handbook.pdf. Any evidence of academic misconduct may have any or all of the following consequences:

1. Grade of zero on the individual assignment
2. Grade of F in the class
3. Dismissal from the class
4. A notation of academic misconduct on your transcript

The Dean of the University may take additional action, including probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college.

Students Requiring Special Accommodations

Central Methodist University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual preference, religion, sex, national origin, age, or federally defined disability/state defined handicap ("disability"). This includes but is not limited to recruitment and admission of students, educational programs, services, activities, financial aid, and scholarship programs. The University complies with all federal and state non-discrimination requirements. The Center for Learning & Teaching at Central Methodist University is committed to ensuring nondiscrimination and equal access to all programs, service, and activities for qualified students with a disability. It is the responsibility of any student who wishes to claim a disability and seek an accommodation to file official documentation confirming the disability and a completed Disability Services Student Information Form with the Center of Learning and Teaching prior to seeking any accommodation based on the disability.

Grievance Policy Central Methodist University has established a grievance policy and process designed to provide students and others with a process to resolve potential issues. This policy and process is established to provide persons with an avenue to file a written concern and to establish a process to track and implement changes as a result of said concern. For more detailed information consult the CLAS catalog at:

<http://www.centralmethodist.edu/academics/catalog/clas-catalog/policies/index.php>. If an issue cannot be solved through consultation with the faculty or division chair, students can report an incident/issue within 30 days of the event via the online web form (<https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?CentralMethodistUniv>).

Course Schedule

Week 1

M, Jan. 13 First day of class
W, Jan. 15
F, Jan. 17

Week 2

M, Jan. 20 MLK Day – No Classes
W, Jan. 22
F, Jan. 24 Sectionals for those not attending MMEA

Week 3

M, Jan. 27
W, Jan. 29
F, Jan 31 Central's Got Talent – HS visitors in choir

Week 4

M, Feb. 3
W, Feb. 5
F, Feb. 7 NASM Visit – may have visitors/observers in class

Week 5

M, Feb. 10
W, Feb. 12
F, Feb. 14

Week 6

M, Feb. 17

W, Feb. 19

F, Feb. 21 Meet in Linn Memorial **No absences allowed!****Week 7**M, Feb. 24 Meet in Linn Memorial **No absences allowed!**W, Feb. 26 Dress Rehearsal for Sunday Concert – Linn Memorial **No absences allowed!**

F, Feb. 28 Music Fest (No Class – but all music scholarship students sign up for shifts to work on this day!)

Sun., March 1 **Broadway Concert at 4 pm (Call time TBA)****Week 8**

M, Mar. 2

W, Mar. 4

F, Mar. 6

Sun, Mar. 8 at 4 pm – Abbey Ruggles/Kody Bartel Recital!

Week 9

M, Mar. 9

W, Mar. 11

F, Mar. 13

Week 10

M, Mar. 16

W, Mar. 18

Th, Mar. 19 – Band Tour Begins

F, Mar. 20 – No class (early spring break present ☺)

Spring Break: Mar. 23-27**Week 11**

M, Mar. 30

W, Apr. 1

F, Apr. 3

Week 12

M, Apr. 6

W, Apr. 8

F, Apr. 10 Good Friday – No Class

Week 13M, Apr. 13 Rehearsal in Linn Memorial **No absences allowed!****Required Rehearsal with MO Symphony Conservatory Chamber Players
6:15-7:40 pm at Broadway Christian Church in Columbia **No absences allowed!****W, Apr. 15 Rehearsal in Linn Memorial **No absences allowed!**

F, Apr. 17 State Coaching Day – HS visitors in choir

**Sun., April 19 Concert with Missouri Symphony Chamber Players
3 pm Dress Rehearsal **No absences allowed!**
7 pm Concert at Linn Memorial****Week 14**

M, Apr. 20

W, Apr. 22

F, Apr. 24

Week 15

M, Apr. 27

W, Apr. 29

F, May 1 Last day of class

May 4-7: Finals and Juries

Final Exam time: Wed., May 6, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

We will not have a final exam, but we may meet and/or have a party.